

REMARKS

The Office Action dated November 18, 2004 has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the claims and the following remarks are submitted as a full and complete response thereto.

Claim 1-2 and 9-10 have been deleted without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 3-8 and 11-16 have been amended. No new matter has been added, and no new issues are raised which require further consideration and/or search. Claims 3-8 and 11-16 are submitted for consideration.

Claims 1-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over alleged Admitted Prior Art in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,285,443 to Patsiokas. The rejection is traversed as being based on references that neither teach nor suggest the novel combination of features clearly recited in independent claims 3 and 11.

Claim 3, upon which claims 4-8 are dependent, recites a method of synchronizing transmission and reception periods of a group of terminals in a fixed radio link system operating in time division duplex mode and in which the group of terminals is located in a hub site. The method includes the steps of arranging a common bus and choosing one terminal from the group as a super master terminal which sends a synchronization signal to the common bus. The method also includes the steps of choosing the rest of the terminals from the group as master terminals which receive the synchronization signal from the common bus and timing transmission periods of every individual master

terminal in accordance with the synchronization signal received from the common bus in such a manner that the transmission periods overlap neither with reception periods of the master terminals, nor with those of the super master terminal. The method further includes the step of adding on the synchronization signal information about a radio frequency used by the super master terminal.

Claim 11, upon which claims 12-16 depend, recites a fixed radio link system operating in time division duplex mode. The system includes at least one hub site including a number of hub transceivers operating at the same radio frequency. The hub site further includes a common bus to which the hub transceivers are connected, a super master transceiver which is selected from the hub transceivers and which sends a synchronization signal to the common bus, and master terminals which are the rest of the hub transceivers and which receive the synchronization signal from the common bus. The system further includes a number of directive and sectored aerials pointing in different directions. Each aerial is connected to a respective transceiver. The system also includes a plurality of remote stations each having at least one remote transceiver communicating with a predetermined hub transceiver through a radio link. Every individual master terminal sets the timing of transmission periods in accordance with the synchronization signal received from the common bus in such a manner that the transmission periods overlap neither with reception periods of the other master terminals nor with those of the super

master terminal. The super master transceiver sends information about the radio frequency used by the super master transceiver to the common bus.

As outlined below, Applicants submit that the alleged Admitted Prior Art and Patsiokas et al. do not teach or suggest the elements of claims 3-8 and 11-16.

The Office Action alleges that figures 1-4 and page 1, line 9 to page 5 line 32 of the current application is Admitted Prior Art that discloses a method of synchronizing transmission and reception periods of a group of terminals in a fixed radio link system operating in a time division duplex mode and in which the group of terminals is located in a hub site. The Office Action admits that the cited sections of the current application do not teach or suggest the step of choosing a radio frequency to be used to all terminals in the group, timing transmit periods of every individual terminal in the group in such a manner that the transmission periods do not overlap with reception periods of other terminals. However, the Office Action cites Patsiokas as curing the deficiencies of the alleged Admitted Prior Art.

Patsiokas et al. teaches a method and apparatus for synchronizing time division duplexing communication in a cordless radiotelephone communication system. Col. 1, lines 8-11. According to Patsiokas et al., in CT-2 telephony, a base unit transmits a burst of information over a single RF channel for a predetermined period of time while a handset receives the transmitted information. Then the handset transmits its information over the same RF channel in a next period of time while the base unit receives the information.

Col. 1, lines 31-43. To minimize interference among multiple units in an area, one approach interconnects multiple base units with a master base unit that supplies synchronization timing signal to all of the "slave" base units. This causes all the base units to transmit at the same time and receive at the same time. However, the wiring of the base unit presents several issues. Col. 1, line 62 – Col. 2, line 20. As such Patsiokas et al. teaches an embodiment where a master controller can transmit a timing signal over a coverage area without wires that physically connect the master and slave controllers. Col. 4, lines 44-59. The synchronization timing information is transmitted from the master base unit to the slave base units on the outer-most channels using MUX2 frame communication. Col. 6, lines 40-49 and Col. 6, lines 1-26

Applicants submit that Patsiokas et al. fails to cure the deficiencies in the Admitted Prior Art. Claims 3 and 11, in part, recite adding on the synchronization signal information about a radio frequency used by the super master terminal. Patsiokas et al. does not teach or suggest at least the feature of adding on the synchronization signal information about radio frequency used by the super master terminal. Instead, Patsiokas et al. discloses transmitting synchronization information for a master base unit on one of the outer-most channels. See Col. 5, lines 31-34 and Col. 7, lines 30-33. According to Patsiokas et al., the slave base units then check both of the outer most channels, i.e., channels 1 and 40 to find the transmission of synchronization signal from the master base unit. See Col. 7, line 53-55. Then, in Patsiokas et al., the remaining CT-2 communication channels may be scanned for possible

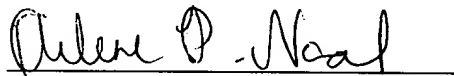
communications with CT handsets. In the present invention, on the other hand, claims 3 and 11 recite that the super master terminal sends through the synchronization bus information about the timing signal and about the channel. The information sent on the synchronization bus is used by the master terminals. The feature of sending information about the timing signal and about the channel through the synchronization bus is advantageous, for example, in commissioning other terminals in a hub. This information may be particularly useful in commissioning a new radio link when one end of the new link is located in the hub. Please see page 7, lines 26-29 of the present invention. As noted above, Patsiokas et al. does not teach or suggest adding on the synchronization signal information about a radio frequency used by the super master terminal as recited in claims 3 and 11. As such, Applicants thus submit that the claimed invention cannot be obtained by the combination of Patsiokas et al. and the alleged Admitted Prior Art. Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) should be withdrawn because neither the Admitted Prior Art nor Patsiokas et al., whether taken singly or combined, teaches or suggests each feature of claims 3 and 11 and hence, dependent claims 4-8 and 12-16 thereon.

As noted previously, claims 3-8 and 11-16 recite subject matter which is neither disclosed nor suggested in the prior art references cited in the Office Action. It is therefore respectfully requested that all of claims 3-8 and 11-16 be allowed and this application passed to issue.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, the applicants' undersigned attorney at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Arlene P. Neal", is written over a horizontal line.

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